

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in this application, Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, and 12-16 having been amended, and Claims 3 and 11 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1, 2, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kawaguchi et al. (JP 2002-251078a); Claims 7 was allowed; and Claims 3-6 and 11-16 were objected to for depending upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to include allowable subject matter.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

As preliminary matter, Applicants note that the Office Action stated that Claim 8 was allowable. Claim 8 depends from Claim 1, not Claim 7. However, Claim 8 contains subject matter similar to Claim 16, which was indicated as including allowable subject matter. Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form, and therefore is believed to be in condition for allowance.

In light of the indication of allowable subject matter, Claims 1 and 9 are amended to include the elements of allowable Claims 3 and 11, respectively. Furthermore, allowable Claims 6, 14, and 16 are rewritten to be in independent form and therefore are in condition for allowance.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 2 and 10, Claims 2 and 10 are amended to be in independent form and to recite, *inter alia*, “the arrangement is a protection seal that protects an edge of the rotating belt from wearing, said protection seal having a Young’s

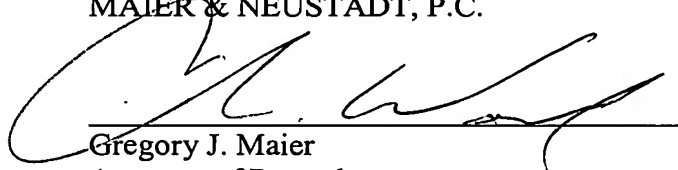
modulus in the range of 300 megapascals to 800 megapascals.”¹ The English language Abstract of Kawaguchi does not describe or suggest that reinforcing resin 2 has a Young’s modulus in the range of 300 megapascals to 800 megapascals.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2 and 10 patentably distinguish over Kawaguchi.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application should be considered in clear condition for formal allowance. A quick and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ Support for the amendment to Claims 2 and 10 is found, for example, in the specification at page 24. Thus, no new matter is added.